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E. D. RIDDLE, ... Editor.

R. D. THOMPSON, Business Manager.

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THE COMMERCIAL.

Holiday Number.

DOUBLE SHEET.

EIGHT PAGES.

The Holiday Commercial of Eight Pages, or

72 Columns,

Will be issued on or about the 19th of December, and will be forwarded to Agents at the low price of Four Dollars a Hundred. It will be distinct from and wholly independent of the regular issue of the Commercial, and will contain a vast amount of Reading;

CHRISTMAS

AND OTHER

HOLIDAY TALES,

POETRY, SKETCHES,

and other matter specially prepared for this Number. The demand for our Holiday Sheet last year was greatly in excess of the edition printed, and Agents and others wishing this Number, which in every respect will excel any previous issue, should send in their orders at once to insure their being filled. As the edition will be large, an

UNEQUALED OPPORTUNITY

Will be given to those who wish to

INSERT ADVERTISEMENTS.

Of which a limited number only will be received. For terms Advertisers will apply at the Counting Room.

LOCAL NOTICES.

D. M. Duke, M. D.,
No. 178 Robinson street, Allegheny.

For Good Bread and Cakes
Use R. W. Lytle & Co.'s celebrated spring flour, commeal and buckwheat. Sold at all grocers.

Raymond's Substitute for Tobacco.
Will destroy the appetite for tobacco and cure the habit in the system. Sent by Druggists at 25 cents per box. Correspondence promptly answered by writing it.

Harris's Superior Oyster Crackers,
Bakery, 8 Liberty street.

Holliday Peacock,
Standard Silver Plated Ware, elegant Table Cutlery, Bird Cages, &c.

Grocery Bankrupt.
Open another story for the purchasing thereof of Groceries, Queensware, Drug Store, 5 Market street, corner Diamond, now Fifth avenue.

Try R. W. Lytle & Co.'s
self-rising buckwheat, cornmeal and flour. It will give perfect satisfaction. Sold at retail by grocers.

Bohemian Wine Sets.
Splendid holiday goods at R. E. Bard & Co.'s, 59 Wood street.

Raymond's Complexion for with Glycerine
for chapped hands and face.

Deafness, Singing, Catarrh,
and all affections of the Throat, Lungs, Heart, Blood, Nervous System and Kidneys, treated successfully at Dr. Brown's Institute and Surgical Institute, No. 24 Diamond street.

Self-Raising Flour.
The best in the market. R. W. Lytle & Co.'s, Self-raising flour.

Do You Want a Fine Corset?
If so, ask your saleskeeper for a Royal & Imperial Corset. Unequaled for fit, finish and comfort. Every pair guaranteed. Sold by all leading dealers. Manufactured only by the Pittsburgh Corset Company, Nos. 84 and 86 Fifth avenue, opposite the Monongahela House.

Diamond, Gilt and Spectacles.
Large stock suitable for holiday presents at R. E. Bard & Co.'s, 59 Wood street.

Go to Fleming's Busy Store,
No. 68 Market street, for Bonnets, Diamond Jewelry, Fancy Goods, elegant Dress and other goods in variety.

Trusses, Valises, &c.
The Pittsburgh Trunk Factory, Cash, Reduced Prices, Fine Goods, Large Assortment, Low Prices, Fine Goods, Large Assortment, Low Prices, Fine Goods, Large Assortment, Low Prices, 110 Fifth street, Duquesne Way, Pittsburgh.

Great Reduction in Prices.
At the Horse Clothing Depot, 71 Market street, in order to close out the entire stock of Horse Clothing, Blankets, Robes, Whips, Carriage and Harness Trimmings, Horse Brushes, Combs, Sponges, &c.

Fine Leather and Enamel Goods,
Manufactured and Plain Stationery,
Fine Gold Pens, Pencil Cases and Satchels,
Fine Pocket Books, Portfolios and Writing Desks,
Fine Ivory Goods, Fancy Goods, Toilet Articles, Perfumery and Soaps,
Call and examine our stock at
HOLLIDAY'S,
No. 65 Fifth avenue.

Spice & Bell's
Pure Concentrated Cocoa, Grand Medals, Paris, 1867, Vienna 1873. Elegant goods for Christmas presents.
Restaurant, 57 Fifth avenue.
Oysters, Game, Fish, Poultry, &c.
Oysters in every style.
Private rooms for ladies and gentlemen.
Parties and receptions.
Meals served at all hours.
Open all night.
Private entrance, 57 Fifth avenue.

Important Imperial proposal of Russia for the New York Associated Press, have been accepted by the Czar, and the inauguration of the line of telegraph to the interior of Siberia will commence forthwith.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VI. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1868. NO. 80.

FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

WASHINGTON.

THE MOORHEAD TARIFF BILL.

The Freedmen's Bureau Question.

The Reconstruction of Mississippi—The Niagara Ship Canal Bill—Collector Smythe Nominated for the Russian Mission, and Alex. Cummings for Revenue Commissioner—Senator Henderson—River Appropriations.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1868.

The Freedmen's Bureau.

The House Committee on Freedmen's Affairs have determined almost unanimously to report against the bill for continuing the Bureau. The parties interested in getting it continued will soon have labor with the Senate, and some of them express confidence that Senator Wilson can and will carry it through for them. The judgment of the House is unquestionably against the passage, and that of the Senate is believed to be so. If it should pass the Senate, it might possibly be carried in the House, though this is doubtful. The committee has been greatly beset by the friends of continuance for several days, and that Chairman to-day told them that in the present temper of the House it would be wholly useless to bring the bill forward, as it would certainly be killed. The committee will probably report in favor of continuing the President's Republican at Washington, Richmond, Vicksburg and New Orleans for six months, as the expense will not be large and the benefits will be great. They have not yet determined what they will do about encouraging the affairs of the Bureau.

The Moorhead Tariff Bill.

The Ways and Means Committee have not yet been able to make much progress with the Moorhead tariff bill, as the members seem inclined to do but little business before the recess. The action of the Senate in fixing the duty on lumber at additional copper printed, which tends to show that he is going to make a strong effort for success. It is not likely that anything will be done with it till some time in January.

The Tariff on Copper.

The Copper Tariff bill is not in the hands of the Senate Finance Committee, and has not been definitely acted upon. The parties who are pressing it are endeavoring to secure a favorable report and favorable action by the Senate and President.

The Case of Mississippi.

The Reconstruction Committee at a meeting this morning heard long statements from the members of the Mississippi delegation, now here, to urge the admission of their State under the election held last summer. They presented figures and documents intended to show that fraud was committed in the matter of taking the votes, and that intimidation was used to prevent colored men from voting. On this showing they ask that the returns of certain counties be rejected in order that the State election may be declared adopted. The Committee will give a further hearing to these persons to-morrow morning, and on Wednesday expect to formally take up the case of Georgia.

Niagara Ship Canal.

The Niagara ship canal bill was to-day, by a vote of 106 to 46, made the special order in the House for the first Monday in January. Some of the members probably voted for the order out of good will to the measure, but the vote was so strong that the friends of the measure believe it can be carried through. The bill provides that tolls on it shall be free as a military and commercial necessity in the Government, under direction of the Secretary of War; that it shall be begun within one year after the passage of the act, and finished as speedily as possible, and that control of it shall be retained by the United States. The engineer's estimate as to the cost of the canal is about twelve million dollars.

Appointments by the President.

The President sent to the Senate to-day a variety of unimportant nominations, being the first of the session. The greater part of them were regular and ordinary promotions. The most important of the civil appointments were those of Collector Smythe, of New York, as Minister to Russia, and Alexander Cummings, of Philadelphia, Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Mr. Cummings's name was pending for the commissionership when the Senate adjourned in March last, and the general impression was that he would be confirmed in voting upon Cummings by General's views if there can be ascertained.

The Case of Senator Henderson.

It is understood that the four correspondents, with those of other papers, are led into error in some a few days ago when speaking of Senator Henderson's case before the Senate Census Committee, by persons who evidently had some private object in view. There was no talk about removing him from the Chairmanship of the Indian Committee, but an vote was taken on the question, and Mr. Harlan did not make any speech in his favor beyond expressing the opinion that he ought to have a hearing before being condemned.

River and Harbor Bill.

The House Committee on Commerce will meet at the usual hour to-morrow to consider the river and harbor appropriation bill. The bill of last session, which they carried through the House after a hard fight, is still pending in the Senate, and that body can do what they please in the matter without further action on the part of the House. The committee may, to-day, bring in a small bill for a few special objects, but none is anticipated.

Washington, December 15, 1868.

The President to-day nominated to the Senate Henry A. Smythe (late Minister to Russia), Alexander Cummings, of Pennsylvania, Commissioner of Internal Revenue; Wm. H. Watson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Idaho and Montana; Benjamin F. James, Chief Examiner for Florida office.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Postmaster-General Randall has sent the House estimates of money required for the service of the Department for the year ending June, 1870. The sum total is twenty-four millions and a half. Of this sum two millions is for transportation, including overland and sea mail to California, requires nearly thirteen millions and a half.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SUPREME COURT.

The Secretary of War sent a communication to the House to-day, stating that it is impracticable to make up the estimates for the army and navy appropriations for the next fiscal year, on account of the Indian war, and that the amount required will be about the same as that appropriated for the same period last year, viz., $70,000,000.

SUPREME COURT.

Among the cases argued in the Supreme Court to-day were those from New York, involving the question whether confirmation of assessments by the Supreme Court of the United States, and therefore exempt from taxation by the States.

CUBA.

The Success of the Revolution.

The Plans Known in Washington Last Winter—Recognition of a Republican Government by the United States—American Ex-Army Officers Engaged in the Revolution.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1868.

The Cuban Commission.

A story (which is believed) is going around some of the most prominent persons in public life of the late indications of success attending the operations of the insurgents in Cuba. Private information to some of these parties is to the effect that the patriots are actually organized, and that the revolutionists are far stronger than the public has been made to believe here. The utmost information from certain quarters has not yet been received, but enough is known to warrant the conclusion that the whole plan of the revolution was made known here about the middle of last month, and many of the features agreed upon, especially persons engaged in the movement were in constant communication for a number of weeks concerning the subject. The utmost secrecy was observed, and the plans were not divulged to any one except those of whom it was necessary to speak in the course of the plans. The principal object of the agent's investigations here was to ascertain whether, in case a revolution could be organized and successful, the United States would be inclined to recognize a Republican government. It is understood that the agents were fully satisfied that this recognition could be secured. The persons thus acting as agents are known to be men of influence, and in some cases of high official position. It is understood that they have since been in constant communication by telegraph and mail, and the result is the present revolution.

It is understood that they have also been very busy in inducing Americans to go quietly to Cuba and join the revolution.

A dispatch from Key West, this morning, says: Intelligence has been received here of the successful capture of seventeen more towns by the insurgents, and that the Spanish forces are concentrating their troops in the vicinity of Puerto Principe, the principal city of the interior. A portion of the reinforcements recently sent to Cuba from Spain have been transferred to the interior of the island.

A telegram from Nassau, N. P., last evening, says: In the forma business of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway in the control of the Erie Railway, Messrs. Gould and Smith are now in possession. The Erie is taking possession of the Ohio Southern. No other changes have yet been announced. The Erie officials started for Cincinnati to-day.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Mr. Morton's Specie Payment Bill.

Reorganization of Supreme Court.

Regulation of Naturalization—Resolutions Concerning the President—Investigations of the Alaska Purchase, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1868.

SENATE.

The PRESIDENT presented a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting the report of the Commissioners of the Southern Freedmen, Refugees and Abandoned Lands, asking for the appointment of a committee to investigate the operations of the Bureau in its organization to the end of the present session.

Mr. POMEROY presented a petition of citizens of Kansas for woman suffrage.

Mr. MORRILL presented a petition of colored persons in Georgia, asking a remedy for the outrages to which they have recently been exposed. Appropriately referred.

Mr. SUMNER presented a memorial and address of the members elected to the Legislature of Mississippi and others, alleging that the reconstruction was adopted by a majority of the registered voters in the State, and praying Congress to recognize the completion of Mississippi and put in operation the State Government ordered under it. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. SUMNER presented a petition of citizens of Washington, praying that the 30th of June, 1869, be the 30th of June, 1869.

Mr. BENJAMIN moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was agreed to, yeas 37, nays 13.

Mr. BROOMALL, of Pennsylvania, moved to suspend the rules to enable him to introduce the following preamble and resolution:

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, in his annual message to the Fortieth Congress, at its third session, says: Here follows an extract from the message, in reference to the liquidation of six per cent. bonds by the payment of interest; and whereas, such a statement, if permitted to go to the world without contradiction or protest, might be misunderstood in the sentiment of the people of the United States and of their Representatives in Congress, therefore

Resolved, That all forms and degrees of repudiation of the national indebtedness are odious to the American people, and under no circumstances will their representatives consent to either the principle or the policy of paying any less amount of money than that which the United States contracted to pay.

The rules were suspended—15 to 28, a party vote.

Mr. RANDALL moved to table the preamble. Rejected, 37 against 132.

The resolution was then adopted, 134 against 37, Democrats voting in the negative.

Mr. KELLEY, Morgan and Trimble of Kentucky, and Mr. Wood, of New York, introduced a resolution for the appointment of a committee of seven to investigate the irregularities and frauds therein alleged to occur in the city and State of New York, at the late election, and to report a bill to protect the citizens and election for President and Congress, and to punish all persons guilty of fraud in the State of New York and elsewhere, by a question to be by a sub-committee, and to send for persons and papers.

Under suspension of the rules, by a vote of 29 to 15, the resolution was adopted.

The SPEAKER presented a message from the President, in reference to the schooner Lizzie Major, seized in the waters of Florida, which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. HUBBARD, of West Virginia, a joint resolution of the West Virginia Legislature asking Congress to aid in the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad.

Referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

By Mr. POMEROY, a bill granting Congress to pass a law to incorporate the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

By Mr. CHANANAWATH, to establish an assay office in the Territory of Montana. Referred to the Committee on Coinage.

By Mr. KERR, to repeal and limit the jurisdiction of the Admiralty court of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. POWELL offered a resolution reciting that the Ku Klux outrages continue to be practiced in Tennessee, and that the bill for extending the Reconstruction Committee to that State has been defeated by a party vote, and instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to-day.

Adopted.

Mr. STOCKTON introduced a joint resolution granting twenty per cent. additional compensation to employees in the civil service of the Government, at the rates now paid from the 30th of June, 1865, to

The Daily Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1868.

THE Tribune-Times will contain a vast variety of news reading, especially adapted to the wants, worship of prosperities. For a few months we won't reading will be given as usual cost, in back form, a dollar and a half. As we are about putting the first forms to press, to insure the filling of their orders agents who have not done so should send them in with as little delay as practice.

It is reported that the Supreme Court will declare the Legal Tender Act unconstitutional, with but one dissenting vote. This report agrees with the belief for some time entertained by well-informed persons.

Democratic and Conservative Men, and Progressive Men in the Republican Party, Everywhere, Should Read the Following Carefully.

The above, taken from an exchange, is a fair sample of the manner in which Pittsburgh is undergoing renewal. Twelve hundred in wide of the truth, we will state that the population of Pittsburgh to-day is 104,000. The population of the boroughs surrounding the city is 31,000. Add to these the population of Allegheny City, which is 53,000, and we have in what is popularly known as Pittsburgh a total of 188,000 inhabitants. The corrections of these figures are demonstrated at length in our columns a month ago.

THE Springfield Republican urges Mr. Seward or the State Department. But, on the first paper, "there are many reasons why he may prefer to remain in the Senate, and many of the friends, especially at the South, urge him to decline the State Department, if tendered to him." If Mr. Seward cannot appointment was out of the question, the same paper further remarks, Massachusetts would support Mr. Wilson heartily for the War Department. But, continues the Republican, "we do not expect to see Senator Wilson appointed, nor does he expect it." At present Mr. Stevenson, for the Treasury Department, appears to be the coming Cabinet officer from Massachusetts.

GOV. WISCONSIN has resigned the Indian Agency, affirming that the Indians whom Sumner's crocus, under Cleveland, so unscrupulously chastised lately, were peaceable Indians on their way to the reservation assigned to them. Gov. Wisconsin is not the best authority, but if there is the shadow of a pretext in record to the matter it should be cleared up. Sumner planned the expedition to attack those very savages, and it is hardly possible that he should be in error concerning their character. Col. Wisconsin's story comes in good time to help the Boston speculators, who seem to meet but little aid in the United States Senate to defeat the bill confiding the Indian Affairs to the War Department, which the House has promptly passed.

E. G. SQUIER has addressed a letter to the Joint Committee on Retrenchment, giving his views on the subject of retrenchment in the diplomatic service. Mr. Squier does not lose his views upon brevity. Familiar with the South American States, their population, and their trade with the United States, he simply presents the result of his observation. He indicates six missions that, in his opinion, are altogether unnecessary. The nominal saving that would result from discontinuing these missions would amount to $47,000 in gold. As Mr. Squier's opportunities entitle his opinion to consideration, it is to be hoped that Congress will take his advice and lop off all the unnecessary branches of this and other services that consume so much of the nation's treasure.

An exchange alluding to the Indian Bureau business, notices two extraordinary facts in connection with the proposed transfer, namely: that army officers should volunteer to undertake a new responsibility in a difficult matter now covered with odium, and that the Senate should hesitate to allow men of high character and proverbial skill to accept the new responsibility, with neither extra pay, glory nor power. The Senate is pursuing the usual course in this matter. When the House voted by an overwhelming majority to transfer the Bureau to the War Department some years since, the Senate acted in the same extraordinary manner. They strangled the bill and whitewashed the Bureau. At that time grave charges were brought against several Senators that they *were not alive to disgrace.*

THE Catholic press in Spain is evidently exercised in view of the action of the provisional authorities in granting permission to the foreign residents in Madrid to erect a Protestant church. The spirit of intolerance is still strong in Spain. The *Regeneracion*, the leading Catholic journal, alluding to the action of the Government, says:

> "No one ever committed such an outrage on the Spanish people as the Minister who did this. Such a thing is a flagrant and odious act that never should."

We have only to say that any progress that will revolutionize Spain, so far as to insure religious tolerance, will be hailed with delight by every friend of progress throughout the world. Open or avowed dissent from Catholicism in Spain has never been permitted. In a word, the history of the country is an overwhelming answer to those Romish apologists who prate in this country of the freedom which the Catholic Church offers to all states which it controls. There is not a Protestant church in Spain to-day. Such an idea was never admissible entertained by the government, which was the only one to oppose the Pope. The foreign residents in Spain were either compelled to endure the miseries and the humiliations of the Catholic Church, or to abstain from church going. It was that or nothing. The revolution in Spain, so far as it has gone, has done more for freedom and toleration in the last six months than the church has done in the last six centuries.

THE CODE OF THE "REGULATORS."

The "Regulators," whose headquarters are at Seymour, Indiana, have at last succeeded in accomplishing all they threatened. The hanging of the last of the Executioners and their confederate, Anderson, in the jail at New Albany, it is to be hoped is the closing scene of lawlessness in the bloody drama. Within the short space of four months this band of desperate men have succeeded in murdering ten notorious characters, the leaders of a gang of burglars, counterfeiters, and horse thieves that infested several counties of the State, whose operations extended into Ohio and Kentucky. The "Regulators" did their work in short order. Beginning four months ago with three of the outlaws, they swung them up without giving them time to say their prayers, discharged quietly and left the officials in Seymour, where the hold of it was committed, to bury their victims at their leisure. Next they seized three others, who were guarded by the county officers, and who indulged in the belief that they had arrested the "Regulators." The latter surrounded the party at night, placed a guard over the officers, fastened ropes to the necks of their prisoners, hung them to limbs of trees, and left them hanging like the first victims to be buried by the authorities.

The scene at New Albany a few days ago is described as one of those appalling scenes where men give vent to their evil passions, and for the time being exhibit a ferocity unequalled by the most bloodthirsty animals. The prisoners, aroused in the grey of a winter morning, feeling that a swift retribution awaited them, fought as men fight for their lives. Overpowered in an instant, bleeding from their wounds, they were hung up to the railings supporting the walls around the jail, without being permitted to breathe a prayer. The writhing were soon hung up in couples.

This is the nineteenth century, and in a country claiming to rank first among the civilized nations of the earth. The outburst of public feeling which greets this piece of barbarism will doubtless be followed in the locality where the scene transpired, by a conviction that the end justified the means. Society in Seymour seems to be divided into two extreme classes, the organizers are leaders and their abettors, and the comparatively few lawless denizens of what they esteem their own and their neighbor's rights and property. The history of the outlaws whose crimes have met such swift and awful retribution, embraces everything that is vile, corrupt and brutal. Their operations were conducted on a large scale—their associates and friends occupied every station in life, including some of the highest professions. It was impossible to convict them, although their crimes were known to every man in the community who ever smoked. Money and influence blinded the eyes of justice, and the quibbles of the law invariably afforded professional counsel permitting them to prosecute their nefarious designs. Threats and the most desperate assistant officers who were guilty of brutal offences were punished severely, while the Horse gang laughed at justice, and shaped their litigation gain with the officers who were sworn to punish them. Thus, in brief, stands out the history of the case.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

"The poor ye have always with you," is a declaration literally verified in every community, at all times. There is perhaps less destitution in this city, compared with the population, than in many others, but our organized relief associations furnish abundant evidence that many persons, every year, are more or less dependent upon charity, and who, were it not for individual efforts put forth in their behalf, would undoubtedly suffer from want of sufficient food, clothing and fuel. It is a well established fact that our poor laws, however comprehensive and benevolent, do not reach all cases. They may be sufficient to alleviate the wants of that class who are prompt to make their destitution known, but there are others, equally worthy and deserving, who cannot be induced to apply for aid to the officers, and who will suffer cold and hunger—and even starvation—rather than make their necessities public. There is a large class, in every community, who, from adverse circumstances, are suddenly deprived of some of the necessaries of life, and who should by no means be designated as paupers. In this class are widowed worthy and industrious laborers, working women, widows and others. They struggle on, in this hard winter weather, keep themselves and their children comfortably clothed and clothing, and shivering from want of sufficient fuel, in the hope that next week or next month will bring them relief, and that their poverty will not be made known to their neighbors. That there are many such, now suffering how, although of no doubt, and that it is our duty, as a humane and Christian people, to relieve the necessities of all such, will be freely admitted. What mental and physical suffering—what present anguish and what dread of the future, can be relieved by the distribution of a few sacks of flour, a few loads of coal, a few pairs of shoes, and a few needful garments, none but those who know and witness it can realize. Individual efforts are commendable, and have been extended to many, but those who have engaged in this benevolent work can realize that the field is not occupied.

It is not our purpose to make sympathetic appeals to a people who have always given a generous response to the numerous calls upon their liberality, and whose purses are ever open to the cries of the poor. We have been made acquainted with the fact that cases of destitution have been developed in our city—cases requiring immediate attention—and have been requested to suggest that a public meeting be called, to take some active measures for creating a temporary relief fund, and making a thorough canvass of the city, with a view to supplying the necessities of all who may be in want. We heartily indorse this movement, and suggest that the Mayor be requested, by a few of our most prominent citizens, to call such meeting at an early day. It is proposed to appoint collecting committees in each ward of the city, who, in addition to providing the means for relief, shall also search out all cases of destitution, and refer them to a central committee, whose duty it shall be to distribute the money. But these details can be arranged by the meeting, which should be called at as early a day as possible.

PRISON DISCIPLINE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

A few days since we reported a full abstract of the discussions of a meeting composed of a number of our best citizens, in regard to the condition of prisons in our own State. We rejoice to see the interest taken in this subject, and the high order of intelligence displayed by these remarks of Pittsburgh business and professional men. This question is likely to employ the attention of our Legislature this winter, and therefore all the light that these public meetings and the press can reflect upon it will be required. We do not believe that the best thing to be done is the building of another magnificent central penitentiary near Harrisburg, to be conducted on the plan that our present penitentiaries have been managed.

Let us understand the exact status of our State on this subject at present. We have in each county a county jail, primarily designed to hold all persons charged with crime prior to trial, conviction and sentence. In some fifteen of the most populous counties, these jails also serve as penitentiaries, to which Quarter Sessions courts also send out the time allotted them after their conviction and sentence. We have also the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries, now over-crowded with convicts, a majority of them probably sentenced for less than two years. And we have for juvenile offenders the Eastern and Western Houses of Refuge. We have no exact statistics, but the best information we can obtain gives the following as an approximate number of prisoners:

In two Penitentiaries	1,200
In two Houses of Refuge	1,000
In county jails	2,500
Total	4,700

Now what is the best way to reform these prisoners and make them useful members of society, instead of being a charge upon the public? We think a better and cheaper way can be devised than building magnificent palaces of stone to contain them. To our notion quite enough of dead capital is locked up in stone and mortar walls to confine prisoners. The better class of them we would put in the charge of skilled disciplinarians upon farms in remote country districts to be reformed. We would hold out this as the inducement to all convicts who would for a sufficient length of time conduct themselves properly, and to be remanded back again to solitary confinement in case of bad conduct. This system has been tested in several prisons in this country, and also as in the Irish plan in Great Britain. To go no further, the very excellent Superintendent of the Western House of Refuge feels confident of his ability to take two-thirds of his inmates upon a farm, and run all the risk of their escaping. If an occasional escape should occur, why then summon to your walls, and bolts, and bars. But why in the face of all the experience of the best establishments in this country and Europe—why continue to shut up any one who can violate the law within stone walls?

This modern system is simply applying to our convicts the same appliances of Christian kindness which the Young Men's Christian Associations and the Ladies' Societies for the reformation of the fallen have found to be successful in case of the erring, but not yet convicted by courts and juries. We want our good old Commonwealth to take the lead in this system of reform, as she did forty years since in solitary confinement. Return so much of that system as is adapted to proper subjects therefor, but in the case of all the worst inbred convicts, encourage the hope of reformation and restoration to honest citizenship.

THE locomotive outlook in New Jersey are certain with orders from all parts of the country. A leading coal of that State has work out to the Pittsburgh Locomotive Works for half a dozen locomotives, to be delivered in a month.

A CHICAGO journal says the Germans need no more of American neglect of art. Although that city boasts sixty thousand persons of German nationality, many of them men and women of culture, refinement and wealth, all able to gratify their taste for the drama, the queen of dramatic art—among the German tongue—famine-stricken has been playing for a fortnight to a "beggarly array of empty benches." We do not know quite the hundred thousand of a population, nor sixty thousand "native Germans" in this city, but our German citizens manage to do better than the "sixty thousand" in Chicago in the matter of appreciating art.

A. D. sometimes that the Government should spend three or four hundred per cent. less in money than the obligations it issued in return, oppressed people unacquainted with Presbyterian arithmetic. We see no occasion for the severities censured by our exchanges. A. D. bases his arithmetic on his own personal experience. He has expended four hundred per cent. more in behalf of modern democracy than he has received from it, and he managed to double the republican party in the outset into the belief that he was above par, when, to use his own language, he was never worth within four hundred per cent. of it. In other words, he represents a system decided by two

Is Florida a Paradise?

Florida having been represented a paradise, and the place of all others in the world for profitable farming, on lines most fondly designated, and the Springfield Mass. Republican, one of the ablest exponents of the views and knowledge, that of scores of men who have gone thither from the North since the war, to ascertain on fruit or vegetable culture for the New York market, to manufacture lumber, or to trade, but one has succeeded. We give the lowa men, and all who take an interest in the subject, the benefit of some of its comments, as follows:

Florida is nothing but a sand bank, or rather a vast sandy plain, interspersed with swamps which empty into the St. Johns. The land rising so little that the waters of these swamps in almost stagnant, were it not for the sun and wind of the late morning would soon cover them, enough what now are the islands of the St. Johns—in other words, there should be some good land in Florida. There is not a foot of it. I have been over it, I will guarantee that it is in some locality where the climate is such that the average temperature can be. I know we know much about that even temperature of the climate, now with is not come. I experienced the full force of Florida as nothing changes in the weather as I have in England, where we are accustomed but as compensation in fashionable to the manner of this latitude. Just before I left Boston, and from the latest part of January to the latter part of June the changes in the temperature were as sudden and as great as in the month of March in Boston. It is all fully for the most part to those who have been accustomed to the temperate zone as nothing and as nothing to the summer season, in the sun is the same, and I suppose from all I have heard, and suppose from all I have observed, that the Florida summer is not as much to be dreaded as the summer of the Northern States. The effects of colds are sometimes more severe, but they will not afford a basis for a lamenting man.

We can conceive of nothing more appropriate than that the Pittsburgh people should do these things, to wit: unite to make a saint of Simon Cameron, champion the railroad monopoly as opposed to the interests of Pittsburgh, and abuse the editor of the Commercial. Those three make well. Nobody was ever so savage and nothing so unjust that somebody did not esteem it a privilege to be regarded a champion.

The Tribune publishes in full the story narrating a romance about prominent persons, itself among the numbers, with Simon Cameron, champion of the railroad monopoly as opposed to the interests of Pittsburgh, and abuse the editor of the Commercial. Those three make well. Nobody was ever so savage and nothing so unjust that somebody did not esteem it a privilege to be regarded a champion.

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An exchange, alluding to the fact that careless murders and young ruffians are frequently acquitted on the plea of insanity, says: "The following graphic picture of the process, which will be recognized by every one as faithful to a shade:

"Two or five wise lawks and lounges about with a grand, condescending attention, or who indulges in the more interesting pastime who goes to the hanging place of execution, and who is the first to take the drop? Who is the gospel sort of thing to take the drop? Who is the gospel sort of thing to take the drop? Who is the gospel sort of thing

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IRA B. M'VAY & CO.,

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 14, 1868.

There was a very light business to-day in the discount line. The banks as well as private bankers have narrowed down their limits to accommodating merchants and borrowers until after the close of the present year.

The following statement exhibits the business of the Pittsburgh Clearing House for the week ending Saturday, December 12th:

	Balances.	Exchanges.
December 7	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
December 8	[illegible]	[illegible]
December 9	[illegible]	[illegible]
December 10	[illegible]	[illegible]
December 11	[illegible]	[illegible]
December 12	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	$[illegible]	$[illegible]

The Government market has been quite dull and weak, prices having ranged mostly at the outside figures of last report. There is a great lack of selling by parties desirous of realizing on the recent appreciation, and the movement in January has not yet begun. Some of the large dealers appear to think the present quotations low and are buying freely, offering 1/2 @ 3/4 per cent. above the outside figures. The active demand for money from the country keeps down the amount of the loan in the city, and the activity of money at the Western commercial cities is a direct source of benefit, which for their way to this market, as that, of course, the supply of money for our use is increased.

Messrs. Jay Cooke & Co. report the following quotations of government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Noon.	2 p.m.	Clo.
6's, '81, reg.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '81, coup.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '62, reg.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '62, coup.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '64, reg.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '64, coup.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '65, reg.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6's, '65, coup.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5's, 10-40, reg.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5's, 10-40, coup.	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7-30's, 1st series	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7-30's, 2d series	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7-30's, 3d series	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific 6's	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Messrs. Jay Cooke & Co., agents of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

[illegible]

The gold premium did not display a very strength to-day. The speculators for a rise do not show any decided energy, perhaps for the reason that the opposite have not any pressing necessity to sell. The bulk of the business was done in the forenoon, and the premium at the close of business was a shade lower than at the previous evening. The impression among those parties to whom a large "short" interest does at present belong, is that the prevailing disposition is to cover, and that the premium will go higher. The condition of the market in this respect is strongly indicated by the fact that gold is bound at any offer. The impression is also quite general that the premium is destined to go higher, and that it will be a matter of comparatively little difficulty to carry it to 140 or 145 within a few months. There is a feeling among these parties to see a large "short" interest then at present existing, but the prevailing disposition is to cover on the slightest indication of a rise, and the

The Daily Commercial.

CITY MATTERS.

Meteorological Observations.

Furnished daily, by Dalzell & Dalzell Jewelers and opticians, No. 57 Fifth avenue.

Monday Evening, December 14, 1868.

7 A. M.	30
2 P. M.	36
9 P. M.	30
Barometer	29.0.0

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Wilkin.

In the case of Michael Cella, previously reported, the jury rendered their verdict that the defendant was not guilty of the felony charged but guilty of a misdemeanor in attempting to commit the same.

Assault and Battery Cases.

Edward Sagan, of Lawrence, was arraigned on an indictment for an assault and battery on Henry Beers prosecutor. Mr. B. testified that he rented the house of the defendant for one month with the intention of purchasing a one poultry, and called at the stand of the defendant, who offered him house rent he wanted to buy. He replied that he did not usually buy in that way, as frequently purchasers went away and finally strike him a severe blow in the eye on the part of the defendant. It was alleged that Mr. Beers struck the defendant after the jury found a verdict of not guilty, the prosecutor to pay the costs.

Bill Returned.

At the request of the Grand Jury, the ignored bill against Allen Dorah, charged with keeping a bawdy house, was returned to them for correction.

Surety Case.

Daniel Grover, brought up for surety of the peace on oath of B. H. Wilson, was held to bail in the sum of five hundred dollars.

Plead Guilty.

Frank Nicholson pleaded guilty to an indictment for assault and battery on Simon Berard.

Assault and Battery.

Andrew Alexander was placed on trial on two charges of felonious assault and battery, both for one and the same offence, on the night of the Democratic Convention, in October last. The complainant entered the bar-room of Regier's hotel, in the Diamond, in which the defendant was employed as a bartender, and there got into an altercation with Charles Strong. The bartender, Charles Pfaff, interfered, when Alexander drew a knife and slashed both of the parties named, the latter very seriously. The jury found a verdict of not guilty of the felony, but guilty of misdemeanor of unlawfully cutting and wounding in both cases. Alexander was sentenced to pay a fine of $50, and undergo an imprisonment of three months in the county jail.

Robbery.

Robert Holmes was placed on trial for assault and battery, with intent to commit robbery. The offence was committed on Smithfield street, on the night of the 11th instant, from a portion of the proceeds of which the prosecutor, a policeman, was to receive a certain sum for services rendered.

Robert Holmes was placed on trial for assault and battery, with intent to commit robbery. The offence was committed on Smithfield street, on the night of the 11th instant, from a portion of the proceeds of which the prosecutor, a policeman, was to receive a certain sum for services rendered. In the case of the Montgomery house sewer, Baltimore are cited where parties owning single lots, with dwellings on the line up to the thirteenth dollars each, are assessed a foot hanging from them to the city proper, while other persons holding single lots, but not on the line, are assessed but one hundred dollars each, and even ten times that amount. Then there is the additional fact that certain property holders "own town" and the whole of the Diamond, those on the little are not, at least to the same extent, and hence the higher assessment in dealing opposite. In other words, a man owning a few feet more of city in different land, on the hill at the corner of Smithfield and Fifth, may be assessed seven hundred dollars per acre, while an individual owning a lot in the house on Beaver street, worth more than that in proportion to the number of feet, is let off with a tax of fifteen or twenty dollars. An effort has been made, and is still making, to have the last assessment reduced, and the matter will be brought up upon the supplement not; but there are a few objections to time-saving which we may mention. Suppose a man and his wife own adjoining lots, each valued at two thousand dollars, but it so happens that there is a dwelling on the north lot worth five thousand more, and no improvement on the south lot; the assessment according to value, it will pay a tax upon seven thousand dollars, while if part on one lot two thousand and the other two more it may build a home worth ten thousand dollars, which by average has not to be assessed. These are only some of the difficulties in getting at the actual value, but we will not allude to those further. That the present law is very far from being equitable in all cases, is freely admitted, and an effort will be made to have it modified during the present session of the Legislature, by an amendment covering conditions of facts of land in the city, and which have been very heavily taxed for the Montgomery avenue sewer, have declined to pay their assessments, the purpose of getting the question before the Courts. They have been advised that the law is unconstitutional, and cannot be sustained. Some proceedings have been had, under the opinion of the gentleman and pending laws, but we believe the only one here mentioned is nearly every instance, so that the would seem to be a good legislative solution, to the measure, some change may be had in the law, which will avoid litigation unnecessarily. It certainly should be changed, and we presume will be, as we have mentioned. That it is very much in advance of many municipalities of Councils, and the Legislature, is evidenced by the fact that the Montgomery avenue sewer, which was commenced under a law in its favor. There is a general disposition in favor of economy everywhere and, before the present Legislature adjourns, we hope to see some wise legislation on the subject, so that the burden of taxation may be distributed more equitably than at present. Councils will soon be organized, and it is to be hoped that they will not be controlled by the "ring" which shall be defeated at the polls, and that the Legislature will speedily adopt measures for the relief of the people.

Fourth Ward Republican Committee.

A meeting of the Republican Committee of the Fourth ward was held last evening, at the house of John McDonald, Esq., Penn avenue, for the purpose of electing a chairman to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Wm. Hamilton, and for the transaction of such other business as might be necessary. There were present Messrs. Wm. Hamilton, Jas. Lowry, Jas. Hamilton, Jas. Lockhart, Jas. Hamilton, Jr., Jno. Hamilton, Jno. Lockhart, Jno. Lowry, Jr., Jno. Hamilton, Jr., Jno. Lockhart, Jr.,